United States Environmental Protection Agency | Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response | July 2000

EPA Descriptions of Seven Proposed Sites and 12 Final Sites Added to the National Priorities List in July 2000

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
State & Site Identification Center (5204G)

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This document consists of descriptions of the seven proposed sites and 12 final sites added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in July 2000. The size of the site is generally indicated, based on information available at the time the site was scored using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The size may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. Sites are grouped according to proposed or final status, and are arranged alphabetically by site name within those groups.

CLEANING UP UNDER SUPERFUND

The Superfund program is managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), enacted on December 11, 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), enacted on October 17, 1986. In October 1990, SARA was extended to September 30, 1994. An appropriation by Congress for Fiscal Year 1995 authorized Superfund to continue to operate. The Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund set up by CERCLA as amended pays the costs not assumed by responsible parties for cleaning up hazardous waste sites or emergencies that threaten public health, welfare, or the environment; Superfund also pays for overseeing responsible parties conducting cleanup.

Two types of responses may be taken when a hazardous substance is released, or threatens to be released, into the environment:

- **Removal actions -- emergency-type responses to imminent threats.** SARA limits these actions to 1 year and/or $2 million, with a waiver possible if the actions are consistent with remedial responses. Removal actions can be undertaken by the private parties responsible for the releases or by the Federal government using the Superfund.
- **Remedial responses -- actions intended to provide permanent solutions at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.** Remedial responses are generally longer-term and more expensive than removals. A Superfund-financed remedial response can be taken only if a site is on the NPL. EPA published the first NPL in September 1983. The list must be updated at least annually.

EPA's goals for the Superfund program are to:

- Ensure that polluters pay to clean up the problems they created; and
- Work first on the worst problems at the worst sites, by making sites safe, making sites clean, and bringing new technology to bear on the problem.

REMEDIAL RESPONSES

The money for conducting a remedial response at a hazardous waste site and a removal action, as well, can come from several sources:

- The individuals or companies responsible for the problems can clean up voluntarily with EPA or State supervision, or they can be forced to clean up by Federal or State legal action.

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- A State or local government can choose to assume the responsibility to clean up without Federal dollars.

- Superfund can pay for the cleanup, then seek to recover the costs from the responsible party or parties.

A remedial response, as defined by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, the Federal regulation by which Superfund is implemented, is an orderly process that generally involves the following steps:

- Take any measures needed to stabilize conditions, which might involve, for example, fencing the site or removing above-ground drums or bulk tanks.

- Undertake initial planning activities to scope out a strategy for collecting information and analyzing alternative cleanup approaches.

- Conduct a remedial investigation to characterize the type and extent of contamination at the site and to assess the risks posed by that contamination.

- Conduct a feasibility study to analyze various cleanup alternatives. The feasibility study is often conducted concurrently with the remedial investigation as one project. Typically, the two together take from 18 to 24 months to complete and cost approximately $1.3 million.

- Select the cleanup alternative that:

  -- Protects human health and the environment;

  -- Complies with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate;

  -- Uses permanent solutions and alternative treatment technologies or resource recovery technology to the maximum extent practicable;

  -- Considers views of the State and public; and

  -- Is "cost effective" -- that is, affords results proportional to the costs of the remedy.

- Design the remedy. Typically, the design phase takes 6 to 12 months to complete and costs approximately $1.5 million.

- Implement the remedy, which might involve, for example, constructing facilities to treat ground water or removing contaminants to a safe disposal area away from the site.

EPA expects the implementation (remedial action) phase to average out at about $25 million per site (plus any costs to operate and maintain the action), and some remedial actions may take several years to complete.

The State government can participate in a remedial response under Superfund in one of two ways:

- The State can take the lead role under a cooperative agreement, which is much like a grant in that Federal dollars are transferred to the State. The State then develops a workplan, schedule, and budget, contracts for any services it needs, and is responsible for making sure that all the conditions in the cooperative agreement are met. In contrast to a grant, EPA continues to be substantially involved and monitors the State's progress throughout the project.

- EPA can take the lead under a Superfund State Contract, with the State's role outlined. EPA, generally using contractor support, manages work early in the planning process. In the later design and implementation phases, contractors do the work under the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under both arrangements, the State must share in the cost of the implementation phase of cleanup.

National Priorities List Proposed Rule #33
Narrative Summaries

Site Name and Location

Alark Hard Chrome, Riverside, California

Diamond Head Oil Refinery Div., Kearny, New Jersey

Nuclear Metals, Inc., Concord, Massachusetts

Portland Harbor, Portland, Oregon

Riverfront, New Haven, Missouri

Sutton Brook Disposal Area, Tewksbury, Massachusetts

Tri-County Public Airport, Delavan, Kansas

PORTLAND HARBOR
Portland, Oregon

The Willamette River originates within Oregon in the Cascade Mountain Range and flows approximately 187 miles north to its confluence with the Columbia River. The Lower Reach of the Willamette River from River Mile (RM) 0 to approximately RM 26.5 is a wide, shallow, slow moving segment that is tidally influenced with tidal reversals occurring during low flow periods as far upstream as RM 15. The river segment between RM 3 and RM 10 is the primary depositional area of the Willamette River system. The Lower Reach has been extensively dredged to maintain a 40-foot deep navigation channel from RM 0 to RM 14. This segment of the Lower Reach contains a highly industrialized area known as Portland Harbor, which contains a multitude of facilities and both private and municipal waste water outfalls. Up to 17 industrial operations have been identified as potential sources of contamination to Portland Harbor between RM 3.5 and RM 9.5; however, because not all sources of contamination to this river segment have been thoroughly investigated, the site is being evaluated as contaminated sediments with no identified source.

In July 1997, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) collected surface sediment samples between RM 3.8 and RM 8.9 from Portland Harbor as part of a pre-dredging sediment quality study. Analytical results document the presence of contaminated sediments in this river segment having elevated concentrations of arsenic, mercury, several pesticides, and several semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs).

In September and October 1997, consultants for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted field work for a Site Inspection (SI) in the Lower Reach of the Willamette River within Portland Harbor. This sampling effort included the collection of bottom sediment and porewater samples from near shore areas between RM 3.5 and RM 9.2. Analytical results document the presence of contaminated sediments in this river segment having elevated concentrations of several inorganics (i.e., metals), several SVOCs, dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethene (DDT), and tributyltin (TBT).

Recreational fishing is extremely popular throughout the Lower Willamette River basin. Species most desired are spring chinook, steelhead, coho, shad, and white sturgeon. Spring chinook contribute substantially to the mainstem Columbia River sport fishery and consistently support the largest recreational fishery in the Lower Willamette River. The chinook fishery in the Willamette River occurs between Oregon City and the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, which includes the area of sediment contamination. The Willamette River is also an important fish stream with spawning populations of chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, American shad, Pacific lamprey, and white sturgeon. The Lower Reach of the Willamette River to Willamette Falls provides a migratory corridor for both juvenile and adult anadromous fish and juvenile rearing habitat for several anadromous fish species. Three runs of chinook, two runs of steelhead, and individual runs of coho and sockeye salmon occur in this area. Several of these runs are either listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.

United States Environmental Protection Agency

For further information, call the Superfund Hotline, toll-free **1-800-424-9346** or **(703) 412-9810** in Washington, DC metropolitan area, or the U.S. EPA Superfund Regional Offices listed below*.

For publications, contact **EPA Superfund Docket at (703) 603-9232**
SUPERFUND.DOCKET@EPAMAIL.EPA.GOV

by Mail:
EPA Superfund Docket (5201G)
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1200 Pennsylvania Ave
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Walk-in Address (by Appt.):
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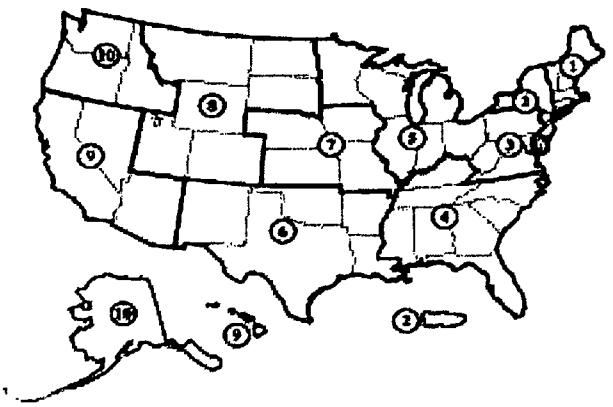

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One Congress St., Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023
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290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866
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Region 4, U.S. EPA
61 Forsyth Street, SW, 9th floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8127

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Region 5, U.S. EPA, Records Center, Waste Management Division 7-J
Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7570

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Region 6, U.S. EPA
1445 Ross Avenue, Mailcode 6SF-RA
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
(214) 665-7436

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Region 7, U.S. EPA
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
(913) 551-7224

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999 18th Street, Suite 500, Mailcode 8EPR-SA
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(415) 744-2343

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11th Floor, 1200 6th Avenue, Mail Stop ECL-110
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* All EPA telephone and telecommunications systems may be accessed via the Federal Telecommunications System (FTS).